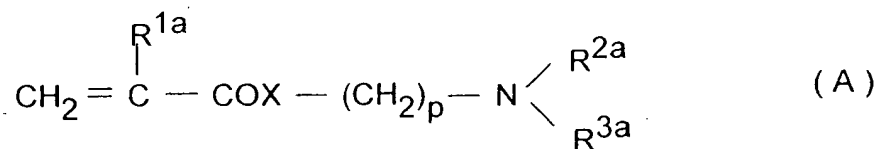


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**1. (Currently Amended)** A finely particulate composite wherein a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms is covered with polymer chain, ~~which is characterized in that~~ wherein said carbon compound is encapsulated in a structure which is originated in a block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment, and which has the former segment as a core and the latter segment as a shell.

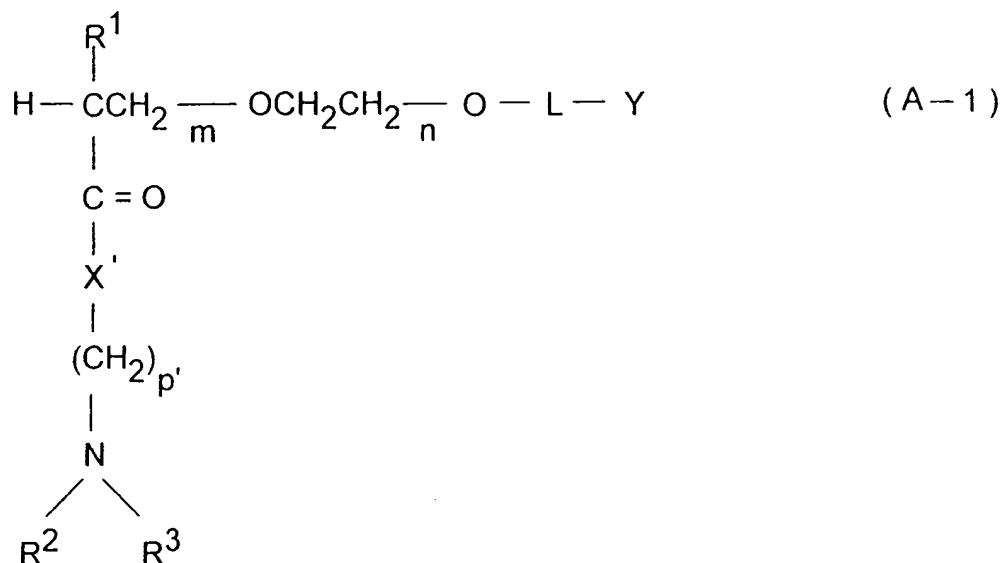
**2. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 1 which has a solubility of 0.5 mg/ml or more in distilled water at 25°C.

**3. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 1 wherein the polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group is originated from a monomer of general formula (A) as follows:



wherein R<sup>1a</sup> denotes a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>3a</sup> either, independently, denote a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, X denotes -O- or -NH-, and p denotes an integer of 2 to 6, said finely particulate composite having a solubility of 0.5 mg/ml or more in distilled water at 25°C.

4. (Currently Amended) A finely particulate composite of ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the block copolymer has general formula (A-1) as follows:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  denotes a hydrogen atom or a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  either, independently, denote a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

$\text{X}'$  denotes -O- or -NH-,

$p'$  denotes an integer of 2 to 6,

L denotes a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkylene or a valence bond,

Y denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an acetalized formyl group or a formyl (or aldehyde) group,

m denotes an integer of 1 to 10,000,

n denotes an integer of 10 to 20,000, and

$p'$  denotes an integer of 2 to 6.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A finely particulate composite of ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the carbon compound is C<sub>30</sub>-C<sub>120</sub> fullerene which consists of carbon atoms alone.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A process to produce a finely particulate composite of claim 1, ~~which is characterized in that~~ wherein a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms and a block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment are dissolved in a dipolar aprotic solvent and mixed, and that the resulting mixture is dialyzed against an aqueous solvent through a dialysis membrane whose molecular weight cut off is 12000 to 14000, to give a finely particulate composite wherein said carbon compound is encapsulated in a structure originated in the block copolymer.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An active oxygen scavenger which contains a finely particulate composite of ~~anyone of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 as an effective ingredient.

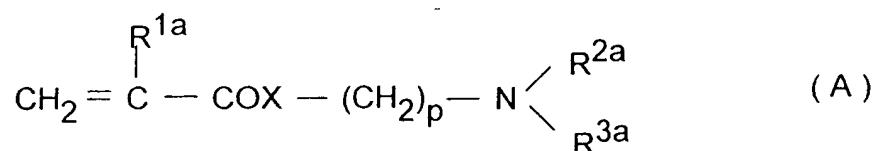
8. **(Original)** An active oxygen scavenger of claim 7 which is used in a field of foods, medical treatment, dermatology or cosmetics.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A finely particulate composite wherein a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms is covered with polymer chain, ~~which is characterized in that~~ wherein said carbon compound is encapsulated in a structure which is originated in a block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment, and which has the former segment as a core and the latter segment as a shell, and that an ultrafine particle of metal either in the form of metal element or in the form of its ion is encapsulated in the closed-shell structure of said carbon compound.

**10. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 9 wherein the metal either in the form of metal element or in the form of its ion is paramagnetic metal.

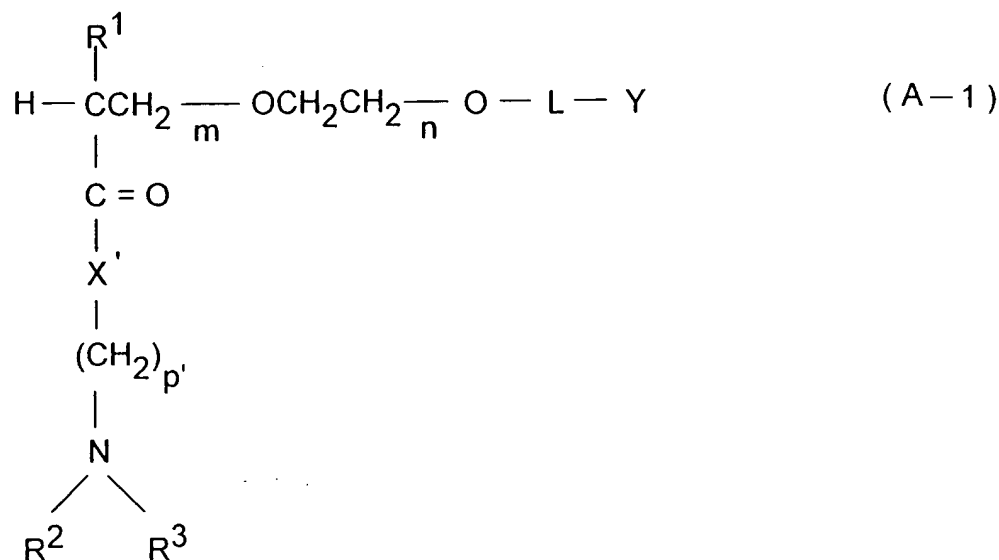
**11. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 10 wherein the paramagnetic metal is originated in an element selected from the group consisting of gadolinium, europium, terbium and erbium.

**12. (Currently Amended)** A finely particulate composite of ~~anyone of claims 9 to 11~~ claim 9 wherein the polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group is originated from a monomer of general formula (A) as follows:



wherein  $\text{R}^{1a}$  denotes a hydrogen atom or a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group,  $\text{R}^{2a}$  and  $\text{R}^{3a}$  either, independently, denote a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, X denotes -O- or -NH-, and p denotes an integer of 2 to 6.

**13. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 12 wherein the block copolymer has general formula (A-1) as follows:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> denotes a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> either, independently, denote a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X' denotes -O- or -NH-,

p' denotes an integer of 2 to 6,

L denotes a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene or a valence bond,

Y denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an acetalized formyl group or a formyl (or aldehyde) group,

m denotes an integer of 1 to 10,000,

n denotes an integer of 10 to 20,000, and

p' denotes an integer of 2 to 6.

**14. (Currently Amended)** A contrast medium which comprises a finely particulate composite of claim 11 ~~or 12~~ as an effective ingredient.

**15. (New)** A contrast medium which comprises a finely particulate composite of claim 12 as an effective ingredient.